

NOV 20 1972

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98195

School of Medicine  
Department of Microbiology, RD-85

November 16, 1972

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University Medical School  
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Joshua:

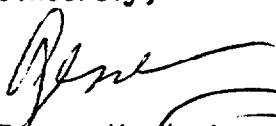
\* I recently put your name down as a reference for a Guggenheim Fellowship. I hope you don't mind. If things go as planned I hope to spend about eight months in the Netherlands working in the Biochemistry Department at the University of Leiden with Dr. Schilperoort on Crown Gall Tumorigenesis. I've been doing some work in this area here and it's an absolutely fascinating problem. In many ways it represents an extension of my interests in bacterial transformation and regulation of aromatic acid biosynthesis. Thus far by DNA-DNA hybridization techniques we have been able to show that virtually all of the bacterial DNA of Agrobacterium tumefaciens is associated with the nuclei of sterile tumor callus tissue, in this way presumably transforming normal into tumor tissue. We are now trying to determine if the bacterial DNA is covalently integrated into the plant chromosome. We also have a DNA transformation system operative in the bacteria and some evidence for conjugation also. I believe that you'll receive a copy of the proposal.

I've also just finished the writing of a textbook in Introductory Microbiology, a job which has taken far more time than I ever anticipated.

We've added a number of new people to the department which I think strengthens it immeasurably. As you may know Stan Falkow, Jim Champous and Jim Lara are now on board. Fortunately, we do have additional space because of a new teaching increment which opened up this past fall.

Thanks for your help in this Fellowship business. We hope to see you again in the Northwest one of these days.

Sincerely,

  
Eugene W. Nester  
Professor

EWN:js

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\* of course  
I hope it works. I've  
been following the crown gall  
story since Klem's work  
years ago.